

**MICHAEL SNELLING vs. OFFICER STROY**  
**Michael Snelling on 05/30/2017**

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<p>1 the cell.</p> <p>2 Q. Okay.</p> <p>3 A. Around 1 and 2 p.m. Officer Stroy came and said, Cell</p> <p>4 14, this is your free time, do whatever you want to do. Okay.</p> <p>5 I didn't know he was out of his cell, Inmate Thomas. I didn't</p> <p>6 know he was out of his cell. But I'm at the kiosk, which is</p> <p>7 the system that you order your commissary --</p> <p>8 Q. Okay.</p> <p>9 A. I had to run and get ready to go back upstairs to</p> <p>10 sleep. My roommate -- I'm trying to think of his name.</p> <p>11 Q. That's okay. You can just call him your roommate.</p> <p>12 A. He had a call out to medical. At that time --</p> <p>13 Q. Meaning that he was gone to medical?</p> <p>14 A. Right, at 700.</p> <p>15 Q. Okay.</p> <p>16 A. So 700 and 600 is side by side each other. And you</p> <p>17 have cameras in each every cell on the floor and in the zone.</p> <p>18 Q. Okay.</p> <p>19 A. At that time I didn't pay no attention. My glasses</p> <p>20 got broke and all of this was hanging below my eye. He stabbed</p> <p>21 me with a weapon.</p> <p>22 Q. Where did he stab you?</p> <p>23 A. By my right eye.</p> <p>24 Q. By my right eye.</p> <p>25 A. Officer Stroy, he talked the officer of taking</p>	<p>1 Q. Thomas?</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 A. Yeah.</p> <p>4 Q. Okay.</p> <p>5 A. And plus he was GD and, you know, --</p> <p>6 Q. Meaning part of a gang?</p> <p>7 A. Right. Right. So he can be on the upper floor.</p> <p>8 Q. Okay.</p> <p>9 A. To make the story short, he didn't come up to the</p> <p>10 stairs by the camera where Officer Stroy was standing at. He</p> <p>11 bypassed those stairs.</p> <p>12 Q. When you say, he, you talking about Thomas?</p> <p>13 A. Thomas.</p> <p>14 Q. Okay.</p> <p>15 A. He bypassed the stairs, came up towards my way where</p> <p>16 the kiosk is at up to the other stairs because his room was</p> <p>17 610. Swear under oath, without a doubt, I hit the floor so</p> <p>18 hard. There's a scar right here to prove it. I have a plate</p> <p>19 in my neck. I was pronounced dead before I got on the gurney.</p> <p>20 At that time I stayed in the hospital for a total of 11 days.</p> <p>21 I didn't get out of the hospital until about January.</p> <p>22 Q. Okay.</p> <p>23 A. All I'm saying that Officer Stroy had a job to do and</p> <p>24 he did not do the job right. And what he did he stood there</p> <p>25 and watched this inmate jump me. And when I passed out, I went</p>
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<p>1 handcuffs off of him and let him walk to his cell by himself.</p> <p>2 The officer stood there. This inmate has no handcuffs on him.</p> <p>3 So he's at the red zone of the door at the entrance of the jail</p> <p>4 on the 7th side of 600.</p> <p>5 Q. Okay.</p> <p>6 A. At that time I didn't notice nothing. There's two</p> <p>7 sets of stairs in the Fulton County Jail.</p> <p>8 Q. And let me stop you. You're claiming -- why should</p> <p>9 he have had handcuffs on?</p> <p>10 A. Because that's the rule.</p> <p>11 Q. Okay.</p> <p>12 A. Anytime you're in admin lockdown, you must have</p> <p>13 handcuffs on.</p> <p>14 Q. Okay. And so he was on admin lockdown because of the</p> <p>15 phone and you were on admin lockdown because of the marijuana?</p> <p>16 A. No, no. I wasn't on lockdown.</p> <p>17 Q. Oh, you weren't? Okay.</p> <p>18 A. I just wanted to be there.</p> <p>19 Q. Oh, okay.</p> <p>20 A. Because it's getting away from the irritation.</p> <p>21 Q. So there was nothing that caused you to be on</p> <p>22 lockdown?</p> <p>23 A. No.</p> <p>24 Q. But he was on lockdown because of the phone?</p> <p>25 A. Yeah.</p>	<p>1 into a seizure, which they said a coma. And I blacked out.</p> <p>2 Q. Well, I want to ask you a couple of questions. So</p> <p>3 first off you said he stood there and watched the inmate jump</p> <p>4 you. Did you know the inmate was about to jump you?</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. Well, how -- and this is pure speculation, but how</p> <p>7 would Officer Stroy have known that the inmate was about to</p> <p>8 jump you?</p> <p>9 A. Because me and that -- I'm going to be truthful. Me</p> <p>10 and the inmate had a problem because every time my cell mate</p> <p>11 would say something about him or something or, you know, being</p> <p>12 too friendly, and I don't get along with people because of my</p> <p>13 mental health issues.</p> <p>14 Q. Okay.</p> <p>15 A. Not to bring that up in the record.</p> <p>16 Q. I understand.</p> <p>17 A. I don't get along with certain people. I'm a loner.</p> <p>18 I'm just -- you know, don't ask me for nothing. Don't bother</p> <p>19 me. Don't get me involved.</p> <p>20 Q. Okay. So you had a conflict with Thomas?</p> <p>21 A. So that's right.</p> <p>22 Q. And what was the conflict a result of? <i>NO MS</i></p> <p>23 A. It had something to do with my cell mate.</p> <p>24 Q. Okay.</p> <p>25 A. And he was the cause of it because I believe my cell</p>

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1 mate wasn't -- Thomas wouldn't let him use the phone.  
 2 Q. Oh, okay. I see.  
 3 A. Where I was in the wrong by putting money on this  
 4 phone.  
 5 Q. I see.  
 6 A. He didn't mention he had a phone. It went on the  
 7 wall phone, so I had to get my people to reverse it to that.  
 8 That came to a big problem. So I had it stopped because I  
 9 didn't know he stole somebody else's phone.  
 10 Q. So the conflict was basically because you cut off  
 11 access to somebody's phone?  
 12 A. Right.  
 13 Q. I'm following you. Okay.  
 14 A. And there was a contract involved. He said there was  
 15 going to be four people; me and him -- and I had the tablet. I  
 16 made phone calls. Okay? But he lied to me and said it was  
 17 going to be four people. You've got zone 6, 100, 200, 300  
 18 riding off \$163.  
 19 Q. This is your roommate you're referring to?  
 20 A. Inmate Newton Thomas -- Well, Thomas.  
 21 Q. All right.  
 22 A. Officer Stroy was one day -- I can't think back, but  
 23 it was somewhere between -- around November. Thomas was asking  
 24 him to bring another phone in because he was trying to sell  
 25 them. So he came to my cell one day showing me different

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1 phones, how much they cost. They were like \$30, \$40, depending  
 2 on what you get.  
 3 Q. Okay.  
 4 A. So I said I'm not getting involved with this. So I  
 5 told my people about it. So before the accident happened --  
 6 Q. And who were your people?  
 7 A. I'm fixing to get you the names now.  
 8 Q. Okay.  
 9 A. Khajedius -- I can't say it. It's K-h-a-j-e-d-i-u-s?  
 10 Q. That's your girlfriend? *Right Name: Khadejia*  
 11 A. No.  
 12 Q. Oh, okay.  
 13 A. Just a friend.  
 14 Q. Okay. Just a lady friend?  
 15 A. Yeah.  
 16 Q. Okay.  
 17 A. Cause she do my money for me.  
 18 Q. Okay. So just a family member? Do you keep in touch  
 19 with Khajedius? *Right Name: Khadejia*  
 20 A. All the time.  
 21 Q. Okay.  
 22 A. So I had her to contact classification to have me  
 23 moved before anything took place and it was never done. She  
 24 said she called the jailer, which was the other jailer and he  
 25 didn't do nothing. Major Walker is involved. Sergeant Grill  
*Right Name: Sgt. J. Griller*

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1 (ph), he's the one who got me to Grady Hospital when it took  
 2 place.  
 3 Q. Okay.  
 4 A. I'm trying to think of some other names. The  
 5 sergeant that worked with Officer Stroy, I can't think of his  
 6 name. He's a black male. Anyway, he said he was going to  
 7 handle it by trying to get him to see a lawyer and have  
 8 somebody come talk to me. He never did.  
 9 Q. Okay.  
 10 A. So I talked to Major Walker. They had me on MSU or  
 11 something like that, MOU, which was something like protective  
 12 custody. They had me on the 6th floor.  
 13 Q. Okay. Because you had been getting threats from  
 14 Inmate Thomas?  
 15 A. Other inmates, yes.  
 16 Q. Oh, other inmates?  
 17 A. Other inmates.  
 18 Q. Including Thomas?  
 19 A. Yes.  
 20 Q. Okay.  
 21 A. And it's all through the phones. All they do is send  
 22 one text or phone call, which everybody had everybody's phone  
 23 number in that jail.  
 24 Q. Okay.  
 25 A. And that's what took place.

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1 Q. Okay.  
 2 A. I almost had a fight on 6 North and I was in a  
 3 one-man cell where all of my commissary was stolen. Then I  
 4 almost got stabbed up. Then going to court. This happened on  
 5 June -- I was going to court and Inmate Thomas was right in  
 6 front of my face at that time and the State was supposed to  
 7 keep us separated from cell to cell going to court. He started  
 8 saying I did this and I did that.  
 9 Q. They're supposed to keep all the inmates separated  
 10 and you specifically from Inmate Thomas?  
 11 A. Me separate.  
 12 Q. From Inmate Thomas?  
 13 A. Yes.  
 14 Q. So let me ask you this: So it sounds as if, you  
 15 know, officers were aware of that fact that there were ongoing  
 16 issues, correct? Am I correct about that?  
 17 A. Right.  
 18 Q. Including Officer Stroy, but, again, on that  
 19 particular day when he un-cuffed this gentleman so that he  
 20 could walk to his cell, what evidence do you have that Officer  
 21 Stroy had any awareness that Inmate Thomas was about to swing  
 22 on you?  
 23 A. Because when he came in --  
 24 Q. And who is he?  
 25 A. Thomas.

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1 Q. Okay.	1 Q. Yes, as he approached you.
2 A. He came in and swung and hit me. And then I was on	2 A. -- knocked me out. <i>TS</i>
3 MOU. I can remember the officer coming back telling me that	3 Q. And he was one swing that he knocked you out?
4 Thomas said he talked Officer Stroy of letting him walk back to	4 A. With a weapon. <i>TS</i>
5 his cell on his own.	5 Q. Okay. With a weapon.
6 Q. Okay.	6 A. And when my head hit that ground, my back is still
7 A. That's a violation of the codes.	7 messed up. <i>TS</i>
8 Q. I understand that. And that all could be true, but	8 Q. I understand.
9 that still doesn't answer my question. How could Officer Stroy	9 A. I barely could stand up. <i>TS</i>
10 have known that he was going to take that opportunity, he being	10 Q. But with all that said, it's not as if there was an
11 Nyrn Thomas, to swing on you, to attack you, to assault you?	11 ongoing fight that resulted between you and Thomas?
12 A. I say this because any other person as me being in	12 A. He should've called for backup and he never called
13 that jail, not one officer or lieutenant ever let an inmate	13 backup. <i>TS</i>
14 walk to his cell with another inmate out of the cell. Instead	14 Q. But how do you know that? You said you passed out.
15 he's saying, go to your cell until I escort this inmate to the	15 So how do you know if he never called for backup?
16 jail.	16 A. Listen, I'm not trying to confuse myself. <i>TS</i>
17 Q. Okay. I understand that. And let's say he made a	17 Q. I'm not trying to confuse either. But you said you
18 very poor decision of doing that, but that still doesn't get to	18 had hit the floor and passed out?
19 the heart of how Officer Stroy would have known that this	19 A. When I hit that floor -- you know how you get hit and
20 gentleman would have taken the opportunity to try to attack	20 you hit the floor? <i>TS</i>
21 you. Do you have any evidence that Officer Stroy knew that	21 Q. Fortunately I've never had that to happen, but I can
22 when he took those handcuffs off, that this gentleman was	22 imagine.
23 coming to attack you?	23 A. I got up and -- <i>TS</i>
24 A. I ain't got evidence on camera because I'm not trying	24 Q. But you did say that you passed out, right?
25 to get nobody for their money. It's just what happened to me	25 A. I passed out. <i>TS</i>
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1 could have happened to anybody.	1 Q. So how do you know he didn't call for backup?
2 Q. I understand. And that something that happened to	2 A. Because when I came in and I got back up and sat on <i>TS</i>
3 you was very bad. And I get that. But what I'm trying to get	3 the stairs, that's when I collapsed again. That's when the
4 at is with Officer Stroy, how did he have any idea what was	4 lieutenant came in. <i>TS</i>
5 happening to you? You acknowledge you didn't have any idea of	5 Q. Okay. But that doesn't mean Officer Stroy didn't
6 what was about to happen to you, right?	6 call backup? How do you know he didn't call backup?
7 A. When I got hit, --	7 A. I can't really say. <i>TS</i>
8 Q. Say yes or no, and then you can explain your answer.	8 Q. That's exactly right.
9 You didn't have any knowledge that this man was about to --	9 A. I can't say. <i>TS</i>
10 A. I never did.	10 Q. You can't say.
11 Q. So how would anybody have known this man, other than	11 A. Anyway, from the beginning, we're looking at the
12 him, being Mr. Thomas, was about to swing on you?	12 beginning. <i>TS</i>
13 A. Me and Thomas had ups and downs.	13 Q. I understand.
14 Q. I understand.	14 A. When there should have been handcuffs on the inmate
15 A. I'm getting to the part about Officer Stroy.	15 and another escort in the cell of the zone at that time. <i>TS</i>
16 Q. Okay.	16 Q. I understand what you're saying. So your issue is
17 A. Officer Stroy had dealings with him. Officer Stroy	17 that he broke policy, but him breaking policy doesn't mean that
18 stood at that red zone. Instead of stopping this inmate to	18 he was deliberately indifferent to the fact that this other
19 come up to the stairs by him or getting that escort, which is	19 inmate -- that he knew that this other inmate was going to
20 back up, which is a sergeant or lieutenant to escort this	20 assault you. What evidence do you have that he knew -- Officer
21 inmate back to his cell. He stood at that red zone and watch	21 Stroy knew that the moment he took those handcuffs off that he
22 all this took place until I collapsed on my face.	22 had an intention to come and assault you? And when I say, he,
23 Q. Well, when you say, watched all it took place, did	23 I'm talking about Nyrn Thomas.
24 he --	24 A. I have a proof, but I sent the request in. <i>TS</i>
25 A. As in the inmate approached me, --	25 Q. Okay. Well, tell me what it is. That's why we've

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<p>1 at and that's the front entrance. He came in my direction and</p> <p>2 knocked the stairs that way knowing there was a set of stairs</p> <p>3 by the kiosk. <i>AS</i></p> <p>4 Q. So he bypassed the stairs and came in your direction?</p> <p>5 A. Yes. <i>BS</i></p> <p>6 MR. JACKSON: He came towards your front?</p> <p>7 THE WITNESS: He came towards me.</p> <p>8 MR. JACKSON: So he didn't come from your blind side</p> <p>9 or anything?</p> <p>10 THE WITNESS: No, he just came straight at me. I</p> <p>11 didn't pay no attention to him because my back was turned.</p> <p>12 And all I felt was a deep punch.</p> <p>13 BY MS. PALMER:</p> <p>14 Q. You said your back was turned?</p> <p>15 A. My back was like -- say, this is the kiosk. But my</p> <p>16 back my like turned to the side. I seen him coming. <i>AS</i></p> <p>17 Q. Out of your peripheral vision you could see him</p> <p>18 coming?</p> <p>19 A. Right where the kiosk is. <i>AS</i></p> <p>20 Q. Okay.</p> <p>21 A. I seen him coming at me from the entrance. <i>AS</i></p> <p>22 Q. Towards the front of your body?</p> <p>23 A. Right. And missed the set of stairs. <i>AS</i></p> <p>24 Q. But you didn't think anything about it?</p> <p>25 A. No. <i>AS</i></p>	<p>1 Snelling. She can send you a copy of the deposition here.</p> <p>2 (DEPOSITION CONCLUDED AT 12:45 P.M.)</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>6</p> <p>7</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p>
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<p>1 MR. JACKSON: So he wasn't running or anything?</p> <p>2 THE WITNESS: No. I thought he was normal until I</p> <p>3 hit that floor.</p> <p>4 MR. JACKSON: Right.</p> <p>5 THE WITNESS: I'm trying to remember everything I</p> <p>6 can.</p> <p>7 MR. JACKSON: And once he hit you, you pretty much</p> <p>8 lost consciousness immediately?</p> <p>9 THE WITNESS: Yeah. And then when I got up, I was</p> <p>10 still shaking and blood was dripping all over the place.</p> <p>11 It was everywhere. And I made it to the stairs. So the</p> <p>12 words I could hear from Officer Stroy's mouth, sit down.</p> <p>13 I sat down and tried to balance myself. And then the last</p> <p>14 few words came from my mouth, I'm about to go into a</p> <p>15 seizure. My body started locking up. When I fell off the</p> <p>16 stairs, that's when they called backup.</p> <p>17 BY MS. PALMER:</p> <p>18 Q. So Officer Stroy was trying to render aid and he told</p> <p>19 you to sit down. I mean, you were moving around obviously?</p> <p>20 A. When I hit that floor, I got up. <i>AS</i></p> <p>21 Q. And that's when he told you to sit back down?</p> <p>22 A. Yeah, because they didn't know what was broken or</p> <p>23 what was messed up on. <i>AS</i></p> <p>24 Q. I understand.</p> <p>25 MS. PALMER: Okay, that's it. Thank you so much, Mr.</p>	<p>1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 GEORGIA, HOUSTON COUNTY:</p> <p>4</p> <p>5 I, Kimberly "Cissi" Goolsby, Georgia Certified Court</p> <p>6 Reporter B-2043, certify that acting in such capacity</p> <p>7 on May, 30 2017, I Reported the deposition of Michael Snelling</p> <p>8 and on the foregoing pages, both inclusive, have</p> <p>9 transcribed or have had transcribed under my direction</p> <p>10 a true and accurate account of such testimony.</p> <p>11</p> <p>12 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not counsel for nor</p> <p>13 related to any of the parties; nor am I interested in</p> <p>14 the event or outcome thereof.</p> <p>15</p> <p>16 WITNESS MY OFFICIAL SEAL and signature, this 23rd day</p> <p>17 of June 2017.</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p>